1908 1933

Silver Anniversary Memorial

The Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital

Newton, Kansas

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory." Psalm 115, v. 1.

June 11, 1933

The Rev. David Goerz.

Neubereslov, South Russia. Upland, California.
June 2, 1849. May 7, 1914

"The memory of the just is blessed."

The Origin of the Work

The first interest manifested in Deaconess Work among the Mennonites in the United States began with the Rev. David Goerz of Newton, Kansas. He read a paper before the General Conference in South Dakota in 1890 in which he warmly advocated the Deaconess work as a branch of Home Missions. In order to prepare this paper the Rev. Goerz had read many books and pamphlets and made an extensive study of the subject. He continued to gather information, and his interest in the matter grew and deepened as the years passed by. In 1893 the General Conference in Ohio discussed the subject again, and the Board of Home Missions received instructions from the Conference to further the cause, especially since several candidates for the work seemed ready to enter this field of labor. The Board conferred with the Interdenominational Deaconess Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, regarding the training of the sisters, but in 1896 in Alexanderwohl they reported that there was no definite decision by the candidates, and no special resolutions were passed. Yet the Board realized that further action was needed, and that the work should be encouraged in our own circles. In 1899 at the Women's evening meeting at

the General Conference in Pennsylvania, a sister read a paper: "Deaconesses and their Work." In the discussions of the Home Missions at the same conference no furtherance of the Deaconess work could be reported, but the thought was expressed that if local conditions in any circles within the conference became acute, there would be no objection by the General Conference if a solution of the problem would be attempted so as to meet the local needs. Bethesda Hospital at Goessel, Kansas had already been erected to care for the sick in that community.

In the year 1900 Sister Frieda Kaufman presented herself to the Rev. D. Goerz as a candidate for deaconess work shortly before his departure for India. The Rev. Goerz was delegated to take a shipload of grain to famine and cholera stricken districts there as a gift of all Mennonites of America, and he now vowed to the Lord, that if a safe return from India would be granted him, he would give his sincere and untiring effort to the Deaconess cause after his return. This vow was kept. He made arrangements to admit Sister Frieda to Bethel College for preparatory study. The Board of Directors of Bethel College took a keen interest in this budding deaconess work and made arrangements for candidates to continue their education and specific training at the Deaconess Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. This step was the foundation of this line of activity among our people.

The next step consisted in the organizing of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society by the Board of Directors of Bethel College. A state charter was granted to the organization on March 30, 1903. The nine men, all from Kansas, who organized the work and who signed the application for the charter on the 13th of March, 1903 were:

The Rev. Abraham Ratzlaff of Moundridge, Abraham Baumgartner of Halstead, the Rev. H. Banman of Canton, Jacob Isaac of Moundridge, the Rev. J. W. Regier of Elbing, B. Warkentin of Newton, J. J. Krehbiel of Newton, Prof. G. A. Haury of Newton, and the Rev. David Goertz of Newton.

It was planned at first to erect a deaconess institution in connection with Bethel College and under the supervision of this board. This plan was changed under the pressure of opposition and after two years (in 1905) the Society, with the consent of the Bethel College Corporation, ceased to recognize any dependent relation to the college and has since worked independently.

In the autumn of 1904 Sister Frieda returned from Cincinnati and began to labor among the sick in Newton and vicinity. She first made her home in the Bethesda Hospital at Goessel, Kansas, but soon changed her place of residence to Newton since this was a more central location for private nursing. On March 18th, 1905 Sister Catherine Voth was accepted by the Board of Directors as a candidate for deaconess work and she entered training at the Deaconess Hospital in Cincinnati in September of the same year.

In 1905 the society bought the present hospital premises from Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hart, which consisted of a city block of land in a favorable location in the southern part of the city of Newton, and considered strongly the erecting of a Deaconess Home and Hospital. Two years later, in the spring of 1907, the contract for the erection of a hospital building was closed. This building, without furnishings of any kind, called for an expenditure of $27,007.45. The sum of $5,324.95 was paid to provide the rooms, kitchen and laundry with necessary furniture, appliances, linens, etc.

The building premises at the time of purchasing cost $3,700; the money paid after the building had been erected, for improvements such as cement walks, trees, leveling and general beautifying of the grounds was $504.77, so that the sum total of the first expenditures of the society amounted to $36,537.17.

Before the building was completed Sister Ida Epp who had received her training in the Evangelical Deaconess Home and Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, joined the prospective Sisterhood. On June 11, 1908, amid general rejoicing and thanksgiving, the building was dedicated to the Lord, to be used in His service. On the same day, the first three deaconesses, Sister Frieda, Sister Catherine and Sister Ida, were ordained and installed into full service.

Sister Catherine Voth. Sister Ida Epp. Sister Frieda Kaufman.

June 11, 1908.

"Go thy way; as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." Matt. 8:13. (Text used by the Rev. D. Goerz for the ordination sermon for the first three sisters on June 11, 1908.)

The Board of Directors.

Rev. A. J. Dyck, Inman; F. N. Funk, Marion; Rev. G. N. Harms, Whitewater; Rev. H. J. Dyck, Elbing; John Harder Jr., Whitewater; J. E. Regier, Newton.

Treas. C. F. Claassen, Newton, Kan. Sec. H. E. Suderman, Newton, Kan.

Pres. Rev. J. E. Entz, Newton, Kan.

The Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10.

The enthusiasm of the Rev. D. Goerz for the Deaconess Work ere long found response in the hearts of a small circle of friends. Herman Suderman and his wife Marie (nee Quiring) were the first to contribute a liberal sum of money toward the education and the training of sisters. Since the Directors of Bethel College became the sponsors for the cause, Mr. Goerz used the pages of the Bethel College Monthly to publish articles about the Deaconess Work and to give information regarding the progress of the movement and the contributions received for this purpose. His creative mind ere long formulated the plan that a society be organized to further the work. On the 25th of March, 1903 the men who had applied for a Charter for this proposed organization met to plan further action. They elected the Rev. J. W. Regier of Elbing, President, the Rev. A. Ratzlaff, Buhler, Vice-President, the Rev. D. Goerz, Secretary, and Jacob Isaac, Moundridge, Treasurer.

Invitations to join the Society were now extended and membership certificates were issued. Each gift of $50.00 contributed by a Mennonite entitles the donor to one vote at the meetings of the organization. The certificates indicate a general interest manifest even at this time in various states of the union, for they were sent to Kansas, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, Iowa, California and South Dakota. By-Laws were drafted to regulate the affairs of the society and the institution which was to be erected.

The Annual Meeting of the society is usually held on the second Tuesday in May. Nine Directors are elected, three each year, and to these men are entrusted the affairs of the society and of the Deaconess Home and Hospital. A separate committee responsible to the directors takes care of the Home for Aged.

The Society has numbered among its membership most worthy Christian friends from various Mennonite communities. Many have been called to their reward, but their memory is cherished and their works do follow them. At the present time there are 300 members, 166 men with 932 votes, 103 women with 763 votes, and 31 organizations with 117 votes, a total of 1812 votes.

The following men have served as directors of the Society, named in the order in which they were elected:

The Rev. H. Banman, Canton, A. Baumgartner, Halstead, the Rev. David Goerz, Newton, Prof. G. A. Haury, Newton, Jacob Isaac, Moundridge, J. J. Krehbiel, Newton, the Rev. Abraham Ratzlaff, Buhler, the Rev. J. W. Regier, Elbing, B. Warkentin, Newton, the Rev. Gustav Harder, Whitewater, Dr. S. S. Haury, Newton, Herman Suderman, Newton, C. F. Claassen, Newton, Jacob W. Penner, Hillsboro, H. E. Suderman, Newton, R. A. Goerz, Newton, the Rev. J. E. Entz, Newton, the Rev. G. N. Harms, Whitewater, the Rev. J. M. Suderman, Moundridge, F. N. Funk, Hillsboro, J. G. Regier, Newton, John Harder, Jr., Whitewater, the Rev. H. J. Dyck, Elbing, and the Rev. A. J. Dyck, Inman.

The Rev. J. W. Regier, formerly of Elbing and later of Newton, Kansas, now residing in Los Angeles, California served as President of the Society and Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1903 to 1917. Since then the Rev. J. E. Entz, Newton, has served in the same capacity. From 1913 to 1917 the Rev. H. D. Penner gave a part of his time to the institution as Bible teacher and pastor, and from 1917 to 1920 he was engaged for full time as superintendent of the institutions. The Rev. J. M. Suderman filled the position as superintendent from 1929 to 1932 and is at present still giving a part of his time to the Home for the Aged.

The Women's Auxiliary

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love which ye showed toward His name, in that ye ministered unto the saints, and still do minister." Heb. 6:10.

Soon after the dedication of the Bethel Deaconess Hospital agitation began toward the forming of an organization of women to assist in the development of the institution. On March 22, 1910 an enthusiastic group of women met in the Hospital to discuss the possibility of such a plan. During the afternoon of the same day a constitution was adopted, and definite steps were taken to create a Women's Auxiliary. Members should be passive and active and each pay dues of one dollar annually. The names of 26 women appear as charter members.

At the close of the first year there were 136 members with an average attendance of 22 women at the monthly meetings. The membership has varied according to the importance of the work in hand and the need for help. The longest list appears in 1911-12 when there were 143 members, the shortest in 1926 when there were only 37 enrolled. The average number has been about 90, with an attendance of 25-40 at the regular meetings which are now held in a special room in the Home for Aged.

The Women's Auxiliary has been very active. The regular work con-

sists of sewing and mending for the institutions. But aside from this many projects and developments in the work originated in this group. Plans for an addition to the hospital for the care of maternity cases were made almost immediately after this organization began. The Auxiliary contributed the first money for this, and assisted with the work of soliciting funds among friends and churches for its erection. They raised $10,715.00 for this purpose. At the same time (Christmas 1913) they presented sterling silver table ware for the Sisters' Dining Room. Next they solicited funds for a covered passage way (pergola) to connect the Hospital with the Deaconess Home, and they paid the entire cost ($1,200.00) for its construction. At the same time (1915) they contributed $500.00 toward the purchase of the X-Ray equipment for the Hospital. Early in 1916 these ladies took the first step toward providing a visiting nurse for the City of Newton. They helped the Hospital finance the cost of the special training of a sister for this work in Chicago, and then sponsored her work and later on the services of a second sister as a school nurse for the city. The first three years of Public Health Work in the city of Newton were financed entirely through their efforts. Subscriptions from business men and friends of the cause, food sales, tag days, the sale of Red Cross seals and baled paper contributed toward this work. In 1919 the City of Newton included $60.00 per month in the budget for the work of the two nurses and the work of the Auxiliary became easier in this respect. In 1921 the sisters were needed urgently in the hospital work and a trained nurse was then employed for some time by the Auxiliary to carry on this service for the city. For seven years they sponsored the work until the Red Cross assumed the responsibility, which organization has carried it on ever since.

On May 11, 1920 the Women's Auxiliary presented a petition to the Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society asking for the permission to solicit funds for a separate building to care for aged persons. A joint committee of the two organizations was appointed to further this project. The Auxiliary kept this cause before the public for several years with bazaars, food sales, tag days and in many other ways. On March 5, 1925 Mrs. B. Warkentin turned the first spade of sod for the construction of the Home for Aged. The Women's Auxiliary contributed and solicited over one-half of the funds which were on hand when the building activities began, and has since never ceased its efforts to help to reduce the indebtedness which is still resting on it. Before the building was finished this group was busy raising the money ($4,000.00) needed for an electric elevator for the use of the residents of the Home, and soon this was installed and all expenses were paid.

In 1927 the Women's Auxiliary initiated and has since then sponsored an annual gift day for the institution which has made possible the service and comforts of the Home to the residents who are not able to pay for their entire support. In 1928 a piano was purchased for the Home, then later a unit for the care of an infant was presented to the hospital nursery. A beautiful memorial window for the sisters was installed in the recently erected First Mennonite Church. Many gifts of household necessities, the complete furnishing of the sitting room in the Home for Aged, Christmas cheer to the residents, and acts of kindness too numerous to mention have come from the hearts and hands of the members of the Women's Auxiliary. These women have helped with the sewing and mending for the Hospital

and the Home for almost 25 years, and thousands of pieces of sewing have passed through their busy hands. Various clubs of Newton have assisted in this work. The Home Needlework Club, the Royal Neighbors, The Uno Art Club, Modern Priscilla, the Ladies of the A O U W, the Catholic Ladies' Aid Society, The Rebecca Lodge, and The Neighborhood Club have helped on different occasions.

The following officers have served the organization, named in the order in which they were elected:

Mrs. B. Warkentin, Mrs. H. E. Suderman, Mrs. R. A. Goerz, Mrs. C. F. Claassen, Mrs. S. S. Haury, Mrs. Jack Miller, Mrs. John G. Regier, Mrs. H. L. Hart, Mrs. S. G. Kinney, Mrs. Doernberg, Mrs. R. S. Haury, Mrs. B. G. Regier, Mrs. J. B. Thompson, Mrs. L. Congdon, Mrs. Chas. B. Deschner, Mrs. Ohio Root, Mrs. J. H. Richert.

THE OFFICERS 1933-34: Mrs. H. E. Suderman, President. Mrs. C. B. Deschner, First Vice-Pres. Mrs. Ohio Root, Second Vice Pres. Mrs. J. H. Richert, Secretary. Mrs. J. G. Regier, Treasurer.

"And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9.

The Bethel Deaconess Hospital

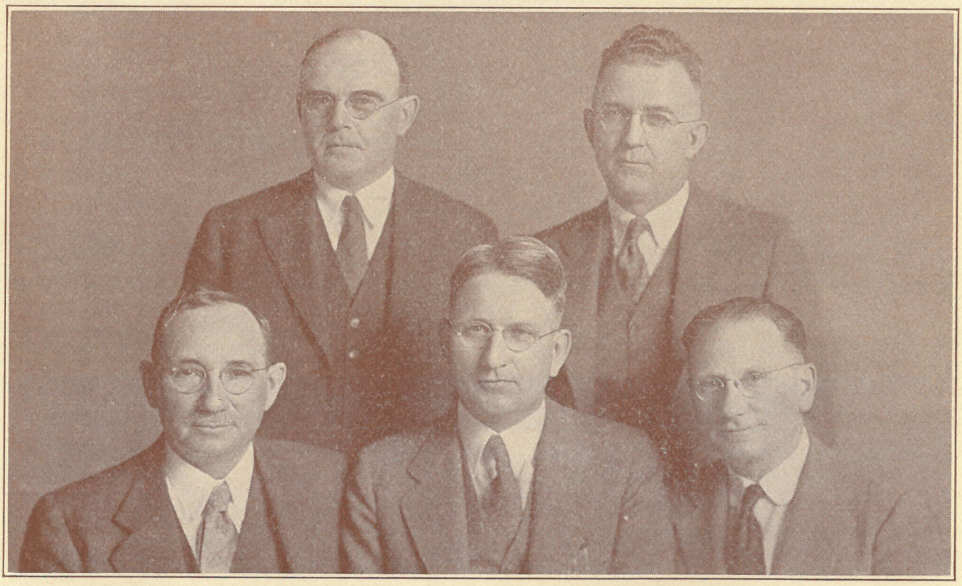
is open to patients regardless of social rank or confessional preference. They are taken care of and nursed conscientiously in a Christian spirit by the sisters at very moderate prices. The aim and object of the Hospital is to maintain high professional and ethical standards in its service to all. Three to eight thousand dollars of charity work has been done annually by the Hospital.

From June 21, 1908, when the first patient was admitted, to May 1, 1933, there have been 19,826 persons cared for in the Hospital in 264,589 nursing days. This number of patients does not include the many who came to the Hospital for X-Ray service, physiotherapy, minor surgical care, dressing of wounds, various treatments, etc. There were 8050 operations performed, counting also only those which took place in the operating rooms. There were 2975 infants born in the Hospital.

The hospital building offers room for sixty patients and is well equipped. The second floor is set apart as the obstetrical department. A modern laboratory, an X-Ray section, and various physiotherapy machines provide the necessary means for diagnosis and treatment of patients. A separate building is arranged for the care of isolation patients.

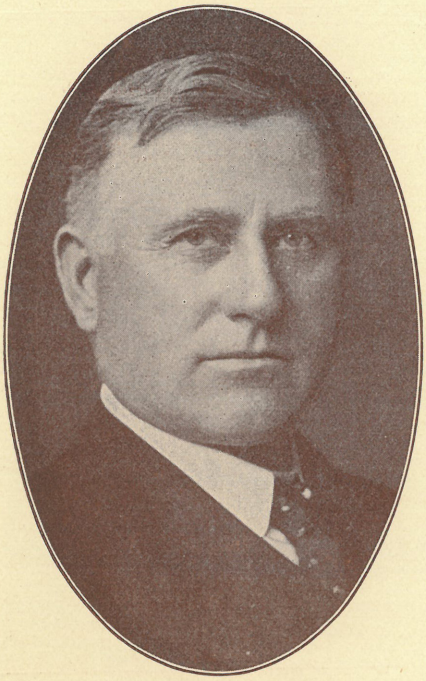
Conscientious and skillful physicians and sugeons have served on the Medical Staff throughout the history of the institution. Dr. Max Miller was the first president of the Staff. The following physicians have been members of the regular staff: Doctors G. D. Bennett, J. H. Enns, J. W. Graybill, R. S. Haury, S. S. Haury, R. H. Hertzler, H. H. Hudson, E. L. Kalbfleish, Max Miller, R. C. Porter, O. W. Roff, W. F. Schroeder, L. T. Smith, and A. E. Smolt. Doctor R. S. Haury is the only physician who has been connected with the institution throughout the twenty-five years. The Hospital has maintained a so-called open staff. This means that all reputable physicians have been granted the courtesy of the Hospital service. Dr. H. P. Knowles of Newton, Dr. W. E. Regier of Whitewater, and Dr. A. J. Wedel of Hesston have been associated with the Hospital as members of the courtesy staff for many years.

The present medical staff consists of the following physicians:



E. L. Kalbfleisch, M. D. W. F. Schroeder, M. S. M. D.
R. S. Haury, M. D. F. A. C. S. R. H. Hertzler, M. D. J. H. Enns, M. D.

IN MEMORIAM



Bernhard Warkentin

Altona, South Russia.
June 18, 1847.
Beirut, Syria.
April 1, 1908.

Mrs. Wilhelmina Eisenmayer Warkentin

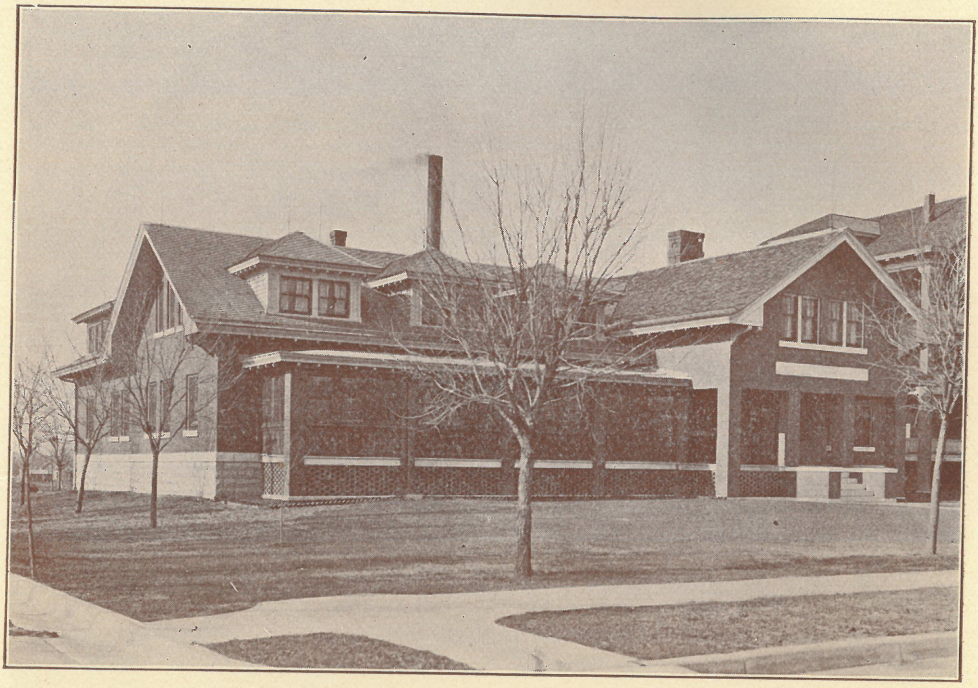
Horse Prairie, Illinois.
November 1, 1852.
Newton, Kansas.
July 5, 1932.

BERNHARD WARKENTIN supported the deaconess work with great interest and generosity. He served on the building committee in person and took hold of the work in a most hearty manner. Unhappily he did not live to see the completion of the hospital. While traveling in the Orient he was fatally wounded by the discharge of a gun in the careless hands of a fellow traveler, a stranger. He was taken to the St. John's Hospital in Beirut and was nursed by Deaconesses of Kaiserwerth, but he died on the day when he was wounded. His bereaved wife brought his body to Newton for burial. Through his death the institution lost a warm friend and patron.

"How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: Thy love to me was wonderful. II Sam. 25:26.

(Text used by the Rev. D. Goerz for the funeral sermon of his friend, B. Warkentin on May 5, 1908.)

Through her loving interest in the sisters and their work, Mrs. B. Warkentin realized their need for a home separate from the hospital. She decided to erect such a home for them as a memorial to her deceased husband. She also supplied a large part of its furnishings.



The Bethel Deaconess Home.
Erected to the Memory of Bernhard Warkentin by His Wife.

For the daily round of duties
Strength and grace come from above,
And our home brings us the comforts
Of companionship and love.

On Dec. 26, 1910 the Home was formally presented to the Bethel Deaconess and Hospital Society, and a dedicatory service was held. In 1916 Mrs. B. Warkentin and her children Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Alden and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Warkentin enlarged this home, adding not only to its capacity but also to its comforts.

The home offers rooming space for 25 sisters and is equipped with a spacious reception room, two large, airy, sleeping porches, and a beautiful chapel with a seating capacity of 60. The building with its homelike comforts is an invaluable blessing to our deaconesses. Through this deed of kindness Mrs. Warkentin and her children have won the sincere gratitude not only of the sisters, but also of all friends of the cause.

"We had much joy and comfort in thy love."
Transcribed from the letter to Philemon v. 7.

For twenty-four years Mrs. Warkentin was a most loyal friend of the institution and the sisters. She was a Charter Member of the Ladies' Auxiliary and its chairman for many years. She was untiring in her helpfulness and in her efforts for the cause. After the sisters were comfortably settled in the Deaconess Home, she began ere long to plan for a Home for Aged. With the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary she gathered the first funds for this institution. Her loyal interest and enthusiasm, and her intense desire to see this Home become a realization, kept her co-workers inspired and hopeful in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. Her love for the sisters never wavered. Though she did not always share their convictions, she nevertheless respected and honored them. Her love and her friendship were a constant source of inspiration to the sisters, and her heart and her home always bade them welcome.

After her death her children decided that it would be their mother's wish that her home should continue to be used as a retreat and a home for the sisters. Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Alden, and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Warkentin, therefore, presented the home of the Warkentin family, located at 211 East First Street in Newton, together with many of the furnishings used by their parents, to the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society for the use of the older sisters. On the eightieth anniversary of Mrs. Warkentin's birthday, Nov. 1, 1932, this home was formally presented to the organization and dedicated for its purpose. This home bears the name

"The Wilhelmina E. Warkentin Memorial Home."

The Bethel Hospital

Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

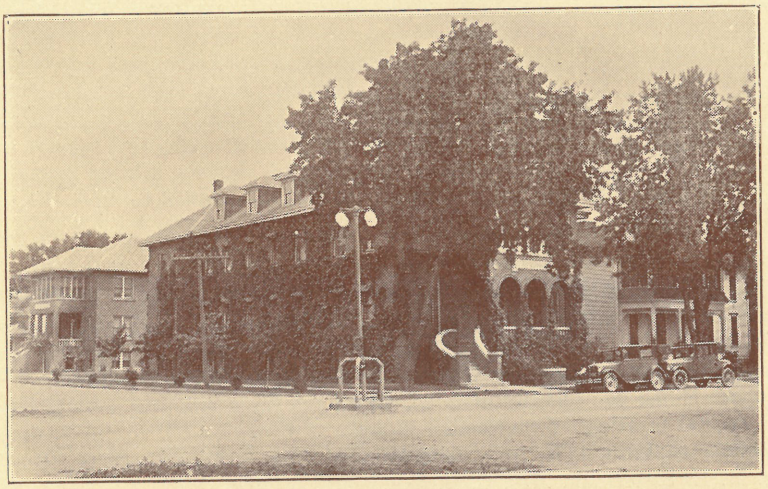
"So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith." Gal. 6:10

The first connections with the Hospital at Mountain Lake, Minnesota were formed in November 1911, when in answer to a request of a few friends, a sister was stationed there to take up the work of nursing the sick in that community. During the following year the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society was asked to take over the Mountain Lake institution as a branch of the Newton organization. After much deliberation it was decided to take up the work in Minnesota in the manner indicated, provided that the necessary money could be collected to pay the indebtedness and to cancel the heavy mortgage on the building. C. F. Claassen, H. E. Suderman, and the Rev. Abraham Ratzlaff went to Mountain Lake to solicit the sum needed, and the members of the Hospital Society there transferred their membership to the Bethel Deaconess and Hospital Society. On Nov. 13, 1912, Sister Elizabeth Harms and Sister Anna Janz were stationed in the Mountain Lake Hospital. It was a hard beginning and the work called for much patience, sacrifice and courage. But soon the friends in Minnesota began to support the sisters in word and deed, and with the blessing of God the institution began to make progress.

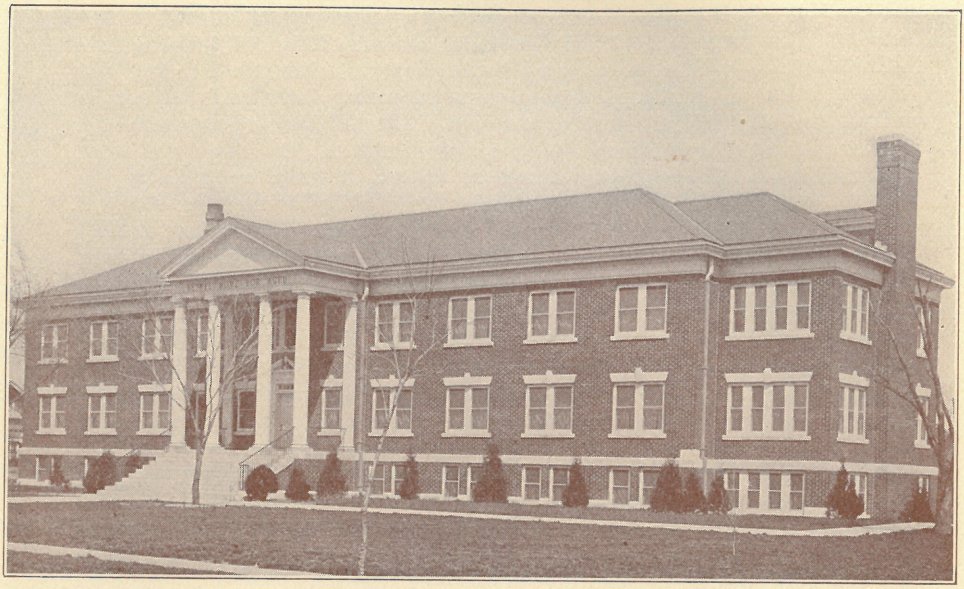
Sister Elizabeth Harms resigned from her position during the summer of 1914. On Jan. 19, 1915, Sister Ida Epp took over the field as Sister-in-charge of the work. In May of the same year a Women's Hospital Aid Society was organized and from that time on there began a steady growth and development of the institution. The old obligations were paid, the building was renovated and many improvements were made.

After Dr. Wm. A. Piper located in the village, the hospital began to serve many patients and soon proved to be too small for the demands upon it. On May 19, 1918 the friends at Mountain Lake decided to erect a new building. On June 5, 1921 this beautiful modern, fireproof building was dedicated with much rejoicing and thanksgiving. After the building was completed Dr. H. R. Basinger located in Mountain Lake and the service and work of the institution was increased. The old building was used for the care of aged and infirm, and the sisters and helpers also lived in it. The need for additional room became so urgent that a Sister's Home was built in 1926, the plan was made to enlarge the Hospital facilities also and to open a training school. The new house was dedicated on June 5, 1927.

Soon after this building was completed, Dr. Basinger decided to build a hotel, hospital and clinic combined for his exclusive use. This was a hard blow to the cause at Mountain Lake for the large outlay of money had been made to serve his patients also. The most serious set back to further development came from the fact that the newly opened training school for nurses could not be carried on under these conditions. Sister Ida had been seriously ill and Sister Clara was sent to Mountain Lake as her assistant and as teacher for the nurses in training. She became ill also and was permanently disabled for future service. Another sister who was put in charge resigned within a few months and left the work. Since a number of young women who were trained as nurses were available for the service at this time in the community, it seemed best to leave the work in the hands of the local committee. The friends who had contributed to the work there were asked to form a separate society, to procure a charter and to take over the institution. This move was made in 1930, and since that time the Bethel Hospital and Home for Aged in Minnesota are functioning independently of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society of Kansas. Sister Ida has returned to the Motherhouse at Newton, where she finds her home since her retirement from active service. Sister Margaret Friesen is the only sister now stationed in Mountain Lake and is in charge of the section caring for the old and infirm persons.



Sisters Home. Bethel Hospital Home for Aged.



The Bethel Home for Aged.

"Even to old age I am he, and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; yea, I will carry, and will deliver." Isaiah 46:4.

Through the entire history of its service, the Bethel Deaconess Hospital received many requests to admit aged persons for temporary or permanent care. The needs of the acutely ill were necessarily the first consideration in a hospital, and there seldom was room available for those who needed the shelter of home and the general care necessary for the infirmities of old age. The applications, however, became so numerous and requests so urgent that the Women's Auxiliary began not only to discuss these needs but tried also to find a solution for the problem. On the 11th of May, 1920, The Women's Auxiliary presented a request to the Annual meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society asking that a separate building, to be used as a Home for Aged, be planned to meet the needs of these applicants.

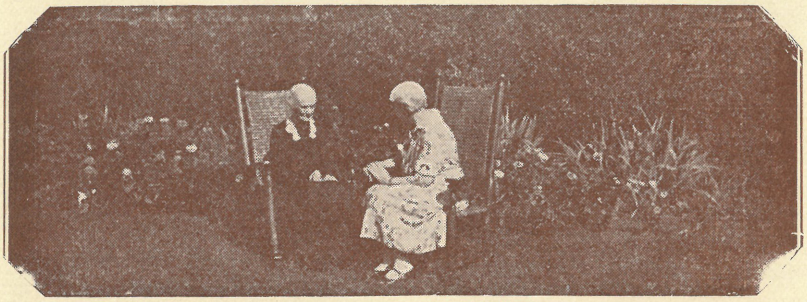
A committee was appointed composed of six members, three from the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society and three from the Women's Auxiliary to make plans and suggestions for the erection and maintenance of such an institution. After a thorough study of the subject by means of literature, and personal inspection of Homes for Aged, rules and regulations for the proposed Home were finally adopted, and plans for a building were presented to a special meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society on December 14, 1923. The Building Committee was composed of the following: Mrs. H. E. Suderman, Mrs. C. B. Warkentin, Sister Frieda Kaufman, Sister Catherine Voth, the Rev. J. E. Entz, John G. Regier, J. H. Richert and Prof. P. J. Wedel.

A half block of land was purchased south of the Hospital block, and two residences were moved to clear the building site. The city gave permission to close the street, thus uniting the grounds of the Hospital and the Home without interference of traffic. This gave a splendid location for the building with spacious grounds and gardens. Construction began in March 1925, the corner stone was laid on September 13, of the same year, and the building was dedicated on May the 9th, 1926.

The Home which is modern and fireproof, is one hundred thirty feet long by forty feet wide, with an addition of fourteen by forty feet in the rear. It is well arranged and beautifully furnished. It provides room for thirty aged people and the persons needed for their care. The first week after it opened its doors for service eighteen aged people were admitted. It has been filled to more than its capacity practically throughout its entire history.

The cost of the building was $87,000, the furnishings cost $13,300, and the site another $17,000. There remains a direct indebtedness of $9,500.00 on the building at the present time.

The Home receives life members and temporary residents, life members paying a sum sufficient to provide for their care for life, temporary residents pay a monthly rate for room, board and care. What worthier memorial could be placed to the memory of a beloved father or mother, than to endow a room in the Bethel Home for the carefree use and comfort of some aged person in need? Reservations may also be made through bequests or annuity gifts for the future care of family members or friends. Deaconess sisters look after the comfort and welfare of the residents and give nursing care to the helpless and infirm.



There are no denominational restrictions for the residents. The Home has not been launched with a large bequest or gift, or with a maintenance fund, as many similar institutions are started. It represents the joint efforts of many friends of the cause. The working capital of the institution lies in the hearts of the friends of the work and in the will of God whose is the silver and the gold. Under His blessing and further guidance the Bethel Home for Aged hopes to continue to furnish to many a comfortable home for the sunset days of life and a blessed entrance into the eternal Home above.

Committee in Charge.

The Rev. J. M. Suderman J. E. Regier. Mrs. H. E. Suderman

Advisory Council.

Prof. P. J. Wedel, Newton Abraham Claassen, Potwin

Sister Helena Entz, Newton.

Sister-in-charge of the Bethel Home for Aged.

DEACONESS MOTTO

What is my desire?

My desire is to serve.

Whom do I desire to serve?

The Lord Jesus in His poor and suffering ones.

And what is my reward?

I serve neither for reward nor for praise, but in gratitude and love. My reward is that I am permitted to serve.

And if I perish therein?

"If I perish, I perish," said Esther, the queen, who knew not Him for whose sake I am willing to perish. But He will not suffer me to perish.

And if I grow old therein?

Yet will my heart flourish like a palm tree and the Lord will satisfy me with grace and mercy. I go in peace and fear naught.—Loehe.

Helena Entz, Zipora Meshberger, Lena Mae Smith, Theodosia Harms, Lena Androes, Amalia Lehman, Anna Gertrude Penner, Marie Lohrentz, Maria Dora Richert, Agnetha Wiens, Mary Rose Jantzen, Ida Epp, Frieda Kaufman, Linda Penner.

(Not on photograph: Hillegonda v. d. Smissen, Margaret Friesen, Katie Dick.)

What is a deaconess? A deaconess is a woman serving Christ and His church, who, free from all other duties, desires to devote her time and effort to the service of the Lord in ministering to suffering humanity. Her desire is to honor with quiet walk and devout labor Him who brought peace and joy into her heart. The service of a deaconess is therefore primarily of a religious, Christian nature. It is rendered not for the sake of earning a livelihood, but for the sake of practicing mercy. It includes many forms of service besides that of nursing the sick.

The Bethel Deaconess Sisters.

"I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant (deaconess) of the church which is at Cenchrea: that ye receive her in the Lord, worthily of the saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever matter she may have need of you: for she herself also hath been a helper of many, and of mine own self." St. Paul to the Romans, Chapter 16:1.

There are various forms of deaconess organizations. The Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital is conducted on the Motherhouse basis. This means that the institution trains deaconesses and other Christian workers and provides a field of service and a home for deaconesses. In order to uphold the character of the work as a service of Christian love and mercy, deaconesses do not receive salaries, but are provided for by the Motherhouse, and they also receive a regular monthly allowance for personal expenses. The sisters can be sent to other institutions, work in congregations, or under supervision of other church boards, but in all these cases they remain in a filial relation to the Motherhouse. This is a great help to the sisters, for it gives them freedom to serve with assurance of a home backing as support and protection in case of difficulties, and it frees them also from the care of providing for days of illness or approaching age.

The deaconesses organize as a sisterhood for the sake of unity and cooperation in the service. They choose their own leaders and conduct their own work and affairs with the approval of the board of directors.

The Bethel Deaconess Sisters wear a special garb for practical reasons. This cuts off all luxury in dress and saves time, money and thought which other women must spend in order to be dressed correctly. It is also a protection and a recommendation and gives to the wearer the respect and esteem which the deaconess cause has gained.

A Group of Sisters

Helene Marie Bartsch, Anna Marie Goertz, Agnes Lohrentz, Marie Schmidt, Margaret Jane Unruh. Sara Dirks, Tena Hooge, Anna E. Lange, K. Delores Friesen, Marianna Enns, Helen Ruth Epp.
(Not on photograph: Newta Newfield, Helena Schmidt, Mollie Becker.)

DEACONESSES

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness: let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind." —Mary Stuart.

Sisters	Former Home	Entered
Frieda Kaufman	Halstead, Kansas	1902
Ida Epp	Newton, Kansas	1908
Hillegonda van der Smissen	Summerfield, Illinois	1909
Marie Lohrentz	Moundridge, Kansas	1911
Anna Gertrude Penner	Hillsboro, Kansas	1912
Maria Dora Richert	Burrton, Kansas	1914
Amalia Lehman	Berne, Indiana	1915
Mary Rose Jantzen	Dalmeny, Saskatchewan	1914
Lena Androes	Inola, Oklahoma	1916
Rachel Kleinsasser	Frankfort, South Dakota	1917
Lena Mae Smith	Pawnee Rock, Kansas	1917
Zipora Meshberger	El Reno, Oklahoma	1917
Helena Entz	Whitewater, Kansas	1918
Theodosia Harms	Whitewater, Kansas	1919
Katie Dick	Mountain Lake, Minnesota	1919
Margaret Friesen	Mountain Lake, Minnesota	1921
Linda Penner	Wasco, California	1921
Tena Hooge	Mountain Lake, Minnesota	1922
Aganetha Wiens	Inman, Kansas	1922
Marie Schmidt	Hillsboro, Kansas	1923
Anna E. Lange	Buhler, Kansas	1925
Agnes Lohrentz	Moundridge, Kansas	1925
Sara Dirks	Buhler, Kansas	1925
Helen Ruth Epp	Whitewater, Kansas	1926
Anna Marie Goertz	Hillsboro, Kansas	1927
K. Delores Friesen	Jansen, Nebraska	1927
Helene Marie Bartsch	Newton, Kansas	1927
Margaret Jane Unruh	Meno, Oklahoma	1928
Marianna Enns	Volt, Montana	1928
Newta Newfield	Reedley, California	1929
Helena Schmidt	Buhler, Kansas	1929
Mollie Becker	Meno, Oklohoma	1929

"And He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi, (the servants of the temple) and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer unto Jehovah offerings in righteousness."
Malachi 3:3.

SISTER CATHERINE VOTH

Oct. 2, 1878 Aug. 19,1926.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not found vain: but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

I Cor. 15:10.

From the very beginning the Hospital work centered around Sister Catherine. She was a capable woman, a skillful and industrious worker, a born leader. When the first probation sisters were admitted for training Sister Catherine outlined their courses of study, became their first teacher, supervisor, and general leader in the nursing profession. She was a tireless student and applied herself fully to her tasks and grew with them. As the institution faced new problems, she patiently set herself to help solve them. She took special training for laboratory and X-Ray work in Chicago in 1911 and 1912. During the early years she was operating room supervisor, superintendent of nurses, laboratory and X-Ray technician, teacher of the training school, and a friend and helper of every patient in the house. Beside all this she was first of all a deaconess, a handmaid of God, a sister and companion to her co-workers.

As the years went by Sister Catherine had the joy of seeing capable women whom she had helped to train take some of the work from her busy hands, most of the teaching, the laboratory and X-Ray work, the floor supervision, etc. passed to others. She remained in her position as Superintendent of Nurses up to the time of her death.

Sister Catherine was one of the founders of the Kansas State Nurses' Association. She was President of this Association from 1916-1919 and in 1924 she was unanimously elected Honorary President. Since the organization of the Association she was a member of the Board of Directors and was twice chosen as official delegate to the American Nurses' Association. In 1919 she was appointed by Governor Capper as a member of the State Board of Kansas for the Examination and Registration of Nurses, and at the time of her death was Chairman of the Board.

The inspiration and strength for her service were drawn continually from that source for which she found expression in her life motto:

Psalm 37:4-5.

SISTER ANNA CLAASSEN

Born April 24, 1883 Died June 11, 1924

"For to me live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21.

Sister Anna was born near Newton, Kansas. In 1901 she was baptized and became a member of the First Mennonite church at Newton. She was a quiet earnest Christian, experiencing definite deepening of her spiritual life as the years passed by. Her cheerful nature and willing hands found many opportunities for service in the family circle as well as in Sunday School and other activities.

She entered the Bethel Deaconess Hospital on Oct. 20, 1919, filled with the desire to make her life still more useful to others. On June 10, 1920 she was admitted to the Sisterhood and received the probationer's garb. In her daily work and service as a nurse in training she was faithful and conscientious and fulfilled her duties with a willing heart.

In the summer of 1922 just as she was preparing for her State Board Examinations the first symptoms of a serious illness were discovered in her. She co-operated bravely in the efforts made to help her. The combination of diseases from which she suffered made the outcome certain ere long. Those to whom she gave glimpses of the experiences of her heart know that it was not easy for her to accept God's leading. But through His grace she was able to become cheerfully submissive to His will. Her quiet faith, her patience, and unselfishness were a constant inspiration to those who served her through her two years of illness. She was the first of our sisters to be called to her eternal reward.

SISTER CLARA SCHMIDT

Born Oct. 4, 1889. Died Oct. 22, 1932.

Sister Clara entered the institution on June 9, 1913, and became a member of the Sisterhood a year later. Through the grace of God she made her calling and election sure and was ordained as a deaconess on Oct. 1, 1916 by Rev. H. D. Penner.

One year after she had completed her training course she took over the office work in the Hospital. Her position gave her opportunity to become acquainted with many people and to befriend them in various ways. She made friends readily and her life was enriched through the contacts both in the institution and otherwise. Sister Clara was a capable woman and a quick and energetic worker. She loved beauty in all forms, and her musical talent contributed much to the home life of the sisters.

In the fall of 1926 she went to Mountain Lake as assistant superintendent of the Hospital located there. She served also as superintendent of nurses and as teacher for the newly organized training school of the institution. She enjoyed her work and her contact with the friends in Minnesota.

In February 1928 she met with an accident. While she was recovering from this it was found that a serious affliction had come upon her. Medical advice was followed and she was sent to a sanatorium in ElPaso, Texas, where she began to recover. But a progressive disease of the spinal cord developed and she gradually became helpless. When she lost the use of her feet and hands she returned to Newton. She spent over four years in bed.

Her affliction was a heavy cross to her, and she did not find it easy to quiet her heart in surrender and trust. But she had the assurance of salvation, and she experienced divine comfort and God's sustaining grace to her end.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126, v. 5,6.

THE BETHEL DEACONESS HOSPITAL TRAINING SCHOOL
Organized 1908

Superintendent, Sister Theodosia Harms, R. N.

Principal, Sister Lena Mae Smith, R. N., A. B.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." II Tim. 2:15.

The Bethel Deaconess Hospital Training School has differed from other training schools for nurses in two respects. It has given decided preference for admission to young women preparing for some definite Christian service such as home or foreign missions or Deaconess Work. Candidates for mission service who were not able to come for a full three years' course have also been admitted for shorter periods of time. Mission candidates of the American Mennonites, The Krimmer Brethren, the Mennonite Brethren, the Defenseless Mennonites and various Protestant Denominations have been in the institution for a longer or shorter period of time. The General Conference Mennonites have also a number of workers in church and mission service who have taken training in the Bethel Deaconess Hospital. Since the Hospital is not large the classes in training have been kept small, usually from twelve to eighteen pupil nurses comprise the student body.

The list of names published below includes those only who have completed the training course and who have graduated from the institution.

Graduates of the Bethel Deaconess Hospital Training School and Alumnae Members
Alumnae Organized Feb. 24, 1920.

Sister Frieda Kaufman ------Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Sister Ida Epp ----------Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Elizabeth Harms ----------Hillsboro, Kansas
Mrs. Benjamin Waltner (Sister Anna Janz) --------Freeman, South Dakota
Mrs. Adolph Nick (Katherina Eitzen) --------R. R. 2, Reedley, California
Mrs. H. F. Claassen (Sister Lydia Goertz) --------R. R. 2, Newton, Kansas
Mrs. Peter Ewert (Susanna Berg) ----------Marion, South Dakota
Mrs. J. R. Duerksen (Susie Quiring) ---------- R. R. 2, Limon, Colorado
*Sister Elise Wiebe ----------Salem Deaconess Hospital, Hillsboro, Kansas
Bertha Schmidt ----------Springfield, South Dakota
Mrs. J. E. Langenwalter (Margaret Franz)
----------218 Buchanan St., Twin Falls, Idaho

1914

Anna Suderman ----------1134 K Street, Reedley, California
Sister Marie Lohrentz ----------Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

1915

Sister Anna Gertrude Penner ------Bethel Home for Aged, Newton, Kansas

1916

Mrs. Henry Kahn (Sister Martha Wiebe) -----Box 398, Lakefield, Minnesota
*Sister Clara Schmidt --------Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

*Deceased.

1917

Mrs. H. D. Loewens (Sister Anuta Dirks) ——— Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Elfrieda N. Sprunger ——— Kai Chow, Hopei Province, China
Sister M. Rose Jantzen ——— Bethel Home for Aged, Newton, Kansas
Sister M. Dora Richert ——— Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

1918

Sister Marie Penner ——— Mennonite Deaconess Hospital, Beatrice, Neb.
Elizabeth D. Goertz ——— Kai Chow, Hopei Province, China

1919 and 1920

Gladys F. Schwake ——— 92 Arkansas St., Buffalo, New York
Mrs. Silas Hertzler (Anna R. Weaver) ——— 110 W. Lafayette St., Goshen, Ind.
Mary Alice Wenger ——— Dhamtari, C. P., India
Mrs. V. E. Shellenberger (Grace King) ——— 1781 Jeanette Ave., Wichita, Kansas
Lydia Elsie Hubin ——— Butterfield, Minnesota
Sister Lena Mae Smith ——— Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

1921

Mrs. L. J. Horsch (Elsie Dyck) ——— Upland, California
Mrs. G. R. Gaeddert (Sara Lohrentz) ——— Bethel College Campus, Newton, Kans.
Sister Helena Entz ——— Bethel Home for Aged, Newton, Kansas
Mrs. W. F. Unruh (Sister Pauline Schmidt) ——— Jangjir, C. P., India
Mrs. A. P. Hartzler (Lavina Balmer) ——— R. R. 1, Box 381, Wichita, Kansas
Margaret Wall ——— 2431J St., Sacramento, California
Katherine Pauls ——— 2120 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota
Agatha L. Toevs ——— Aberdeen, Idaho
Lizzie Wiebe ——— Bethany Hospital, American Falls, Idaho

1922

Emma Bartel ——— Tsoa Hsien, Shantung Prov., China
Adelgunda Priebe ——— Chotzeshan, Chahar Dist., P. C. Line, China
Anna Klassen ——— Chotzeshan, Chahar Dist., North China
Sister Katie Dick ——— Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Sister Theodosia Harms ——— Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

1923

Mrs. Albert Lidtke (Sister Aganeta Boese) ——— Avon, South Dakota

1924

Mrs. Carl Landis (Martha J. Graber) ——— 2342 N. Ninth St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Mitchell Jurdy (Sister Katherine Ruth Walde) ——— 4120 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mrs. P. P. Preheim (Edith E. Wenger) ——— Marion, South Dakota
Mrs. Herman S. Janzen (Sister Linda Marie Peters) ——— R. R. 2, Newton, Kansas
Ella M. Wiebe ——— Wesley Hospital, Wichita, Kansas

1925

Mrs. Henry P. Goerz (Kathryn B. Deckert) ——— Marion, South Dakota
Mrs. Jacob J. Willems (Susie Penner) ——— Dundurn, Sask., Canada
Sister Aganetha Wiens ——— Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Margaret B. Enns ——— Herbert, Sask., Canada
Mrs. D. H. Fast (Sister Elizabeth Eitzen) ——— Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Elizabeth Toews ——— Bethel Hospital, Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Mrs. H. P. Graber (Sister Elizabeth Janzen) ——— Pretty Prairie, Kansas

1926

Helen Graber ---------- Wayland, Iowa
Sister Marie Schmidt ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Mae Miller ---------- Crystal Springs, Kansas
Marie Toews ---------- Bethel Hospital, Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Tena Heinrichs ---------- Canton, Kansas
Elizabeth Wiens ---------- Herbert, Sask., Canada

1927

Augusta Schmidt ---------- Korba, C. P., India
Anna Balzer ---------- 720 West College Ave., Blackwell, Oklahoma
Elizabeth Becker ---------- Mennonite Hospital, Beatrice, Nebraska
Sara L. Berg ---------- Mennonite Hospital, Beatrice, Nebraska
Agnes Dueck ---------- Salem Hospital, Salem, Oregon

1928

Lela Miller ---------- Crystal Springs, Kansas
Sister Agnes Lohrentz ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Sister Anna E. Lange ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Selma Linscheid ---------- Butterfield, Minnesota
Mae L. Huntley ---------- Snohomish County Hospital, Monroe, Washington
Sister Sara A. Dirks ---------- Buhler, Kansas
Mrs. David D. Eitzen (Amanda Heidebrecht) 654 E. 79th St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Edith Ebersole ---------- 4600 Mission Road, Kansas City, Kansas

1929

Marie H. Bartel ---------- 1119 W. Oklahoma St., Enid, Oklahoma
Kathryn Friesen ---------- 737 N. Willis St., Visalia, California
Sister Helen Ruth Epp ---------- Whitewater, Kansas
Edith A. Giesbrecht ---------- Aberdeen, Idaho
Marie Lichti ---------- 329 Campus Ave., Upland, California
Helen M. Lapp ---------- Palisade, Nebraska

1930

Linda L. Pankratz ---------- Burrton, Kansas
Marie D. Lohrenz ---------- Bethel Hospital, Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Sister Anna Marie Goertz ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Alma Ruth Unruh ---------- Bethesda Hospital, Goessel, Kansas
Nina B. Metty ---------- Snohomish County Hospital, Monroe, Washington
Sister K. Delores Friesen ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Olga Rempel ---------- Altona, Manitoba
Josephine Boese ---------- Vona, Colorado

1931

Sister Helene Marie Bartsch ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Anna E. Heppner ---------- Bethel Hospital, Mountain Lake, Minnesota
Sister Margaret J. Unruh ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Sister Marianna Enns ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas

1932

Sister Newta Newfield ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Sister Helena Schmidt ---------- Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton, Kansas
Della F. Sprunger ---------- Dalton, Ohio

"Though sundered far, by faith we meet
Around one common mercy-seat."

"Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom." Job 32:7.

1908 — 1933.

June 11, 1908 Ordination of the first three Sister. Dedication of the Bethel Deaconess Hospital. Sister Frieda Kaufman is appointed Sister-in-charge, and Sister Catherine Voth as Superintendent of nurses.

June 12 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

June 13 The Sisters move into the Hospital.

June 21 The first patient is admitted.

June 23 The first infant is born in the Hospital.

Sept. 28 The first three probation Sisters are admitted to the training course.

Nov. 1 The first Holy Communion Service is held for the Sisters.

1909

Feb. 1 Sister Hillegonda van der Smissen enters the institution to take charge of the household and to serve as Bible teacher.

March 25 The Directors decide to have trees planted. (There is not a single tree on the Hospital block.)

April 27 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. There are 124 members with 334 votes.

Sept. 16 Ordination of Sister Hillegonda v. d. Smissen by the Rev. Gustav Harder. Text Psalm 100:v. 2.

Nov. 26 Mrs. B. Warkentin meets with the Directors and offers to build a Deaconess Home for the Sisters.

1910

January The Rev. D. Goerz takes trip to the Orient to improve his health.

March 22 The Women's Auxiliary is organized.

Early Spring. Construction work begins on the Deaconess Home.

Aug. 12 The Women's Auxiliary confers with the Board of Directors regarding an addition to the Hospital for the care of Maternity Cases.

Sept. 13 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Rev. D. Goerz tenders his resignation as member of the Board. Since he has served as secretary and as a very able general business manager since the society was organized his resignation is accepted with great reluctance. His health is not improved.

Dec. 26 The Deaconess Home is dedicated in the afternoon. Dedicatory sermon by the Rev. Abr. Ratzlaff. Text I Kings 8:20, 21.
First service in the chapel of the new home in the evening. The investure of Sister Elise Wiebe.

1911

May 9 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Women's Auxiliary reports an income of $693.00 during the first year of its activity.

Summer. Sister Catherine Voth attends a special 3 months' course for training in laboratory work at the Chicago University.

August. The Rev. J. W. Regier visits Mountain Lake, Minnesota by request of Brother J. D. Hiebert and other brethren to look over the Hospital located there, and to consider the possibility of assisting with the work of that institution.

Oct. 10 The Directors decide to send a Sister to Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

November Sister Frieda and Sister Elizabeth Harms go to Minnesota. Sister Elizabeth is to take charge of the work there, which is to consist of nursing in private homes and taking care of hospital patients if there are any. A committee is organized to sponsor the work.

Dec. 1 Sister Elizabeth Harms begins service in Mountain Lake.

1912

April 30 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Society decides to take over the hospital property at Mountain Lake, Minnesota as a branch institution. The Women's Auxiliary reports $2000.00 on hand for the proposed Maternity Annex to the Hospital at Newton.

Summer Sisters Catherine Voth and Bertha Schmidt spend the summer in Chicago to take further training in X-Ray and Laboratory Work.

Oct. 18 The brethren C. F. Claassen, H. E. Suderman and the Rev. Abr. Ratzlaff return from their trip to Minnesota. They report that they have been able to solicit funds to lift the indebtedness resting on the Hospital sufficiently to make possible an opening of the institution.

Nov. 3 Ordination of Sister Elizabeth Harms in the Mennonite Brethren Church in Lehigh.

Nov. 10 Ordination of Sister Anna Janz in the First Mennonite Church of Newton.

Nov. 11 Sister Frieda accompanies the Sisters Elizabeth Harms and Anna Janz to Mountain Lake, Minnesota. The Sisters take charge of the Hospital on Nov. 13.

1913

Feb. 27 Building plans for the proposed Hospital addition are submitted to the Board of Directors.

April 17 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Society decides to erect the Maternity Annex to the Hospital. The Women's Auxiliary reports the sum of $7719.00 in cash and in pledges for this purpose.

May 15 The building contract is signed for the Annex.

May 21 Contruction of the Hospital Annex begins.

Sept. 21 The Rev. H. D. Penner begins his work in the institution. He serves as pastor and teacher giving one-half of his time to this work.

Oct. 3 The Medical Staff organizes and adopts rules and regulations for its service.

Nov. 30 Dedication of the Hospital Annex. Dedication sermon by the the Rev. J. W. Regier. Text, Heb. 11: v. 1.

1914

May 7 Death of the Rev. D. Goerz, Upland, California.

May 12 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Society now has 184 members with 705 votes. The Women's Auxiliary has contributed $10,715.00 to the Hospital Addition. The cost of this with furnishings was $25,000.00. There remains an indebtedness of $13,300.00 on this building. The work in Minnesota is developing, and the indebtedness there is paid.

June Sister Elizabeth Harms, who is in charge of the Mountain Lake institution resigns from her position and severs her connection with the Sisterhood.

June 26 Sister Hillegonda fractures her hip in Chicago.

July 2 Dr. A. E. Smolt and Sister Catherine bring Sister Hillegonda home to Newton for care and treatment.

November A pergola is built connecting the Hospital and the Deaconess Home with a covered passageway.

A modern X-Ray equipment is purchased and installed in the Hospital with the financial assistance of the doctors and other friends.

1915

Jan. 18 Sister Ida Epp goes to Mountain Lake to take charge of the Hospital located there.

April Substantial improvements are made in the Hospital Building in Minnesota.

May 11 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

May A Women's Hospital Aid Society is organized in Mountain Lake.

July Governor Capper appoints Sister Catherine a member of the Kansas State Board for Examination and Registration of Nurses.

July The Rev. H. D. Penner, Mrs. B. Warkentin and Sister Frieda visit Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

Dec. 2 Death of Herman Suderman.

1916

Jan. 1 Sister Gertrude begins a special course in Chicago in training for Public Health Work and Visiting Nursing.

Jan. 27 The Board of Directors accept the offer of the Women's Auxiliary to sponsor the work of visiting nursing in Newton, and to help finance the cost of special training of a Sister for this work.

The Board considers a request received from some brethren in South Dakota to establish a branch hospital either in Freeman or Marion Junction. The Board appreciates the confidence expressed in this petition, but decides that more work cannot be undertaken on account of shortage of sisters.

February The sisters give a course in Home Nursing in connection with the Bible Week at Bethel College. The lectures and demonstrations are well attended.

May 11 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. Mrs. B. Warkentin and her children offer to erect an addition to the Deaconess Home providing that the Society will construct a central heating plant for the institution. The offer is gratefully accepted. A committee is appointed to solicit funds for the heating plant.

June 6 Sister Gertrude begins her work as visiting nurse in Newton.

June Construction begins on the Annex to the Deaconess Home.

Summer New heating plant is installed in Mountain Lake.

Oct. 1 Ordination of the Sisters Lydia Goertz, Marie Lohrentz, Maria Froese, Anna Martha Wiebe, Anna Gertrude Penner, Clara Schmidt.

October Construction begins on the Central Heating Plant. Cost $4,500.00. The boiler is a gift of the Warkentin family.

Dec. 26 The Addition to the Deaconess Home is dedicated on the sixth anniversary day of the first dedication of the Home.

1917

May 11 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Rev. J. W. Regier's resignation as director and chairman of the Board is accepted with regret. The Rev. J. W. Regier moves

to California with his children. The Rev. J. E. Entz is chosen as Chairman.

June 22 The Directors of the Bethany Hospital at American Falls, Idaho ask that two Sisters be sent to take charge of the Hospital located there. The request is refused on account of shortage of sisters.

June 26 A similar request from the Mennonite Sanatorium located in Upland, California is refused for the same reason.

Fall Sister Gertrude takes over the work as school nurse for the city of Newton. Sister Anuta Dirks does the work of a visiting nurse under Sister Gertrude's supervision.

1918

May 14 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Herman Suderman home is purchased to provide room for the sisters in training.

May 19 The people in Mountain Lake decide to build a new hospital.

June 2 Ordination of the Sisters M. Dora Richert, Frieda N. Sprunger, M. Rose Jantzen, and Anuta Dirks.

1919

Feb. 13 The Board of Directors consider a call received from the Berne, Indiana Congregation to let Sister Elfrieda Sprunger serve the church as a parish deaconess until she can leave for foreign mission service. A contract is made for six months.

May 13 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The indebtedness on the Maternity Annex of the Hospital is reported paid.

June 1 The Ordination of the Sisters Amalia Lehman and Elizabeth Goertz.

Sept. 17 An agreement is made with the Bethany Hospital in American Falls, Idaho, that we send three sisters to take care of the work there for two years while their two deaconess candidates finish training in our Motherhouse.

September Excavations are started for the new hospital building in Mountain Lake.

Oct. 1 Sister M. Dora Richert goes to St. Louis to take post graduate work at the Evangelical Deaconess Hospital.

Oct. 19 The Sisters Lydia Goertz, Mary Rose Jantzen and Amalia Lehman leave for Idaho.

1920

Jan. 20 The Board considers the purchase of a steam laundry equipment, and plans much needed changes in the heating system of the Hospital.

May 11 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Women's Auxiliary presents a request that the Society consider the erection of a separate building to care for aged persons. A Joint committee consisting of three members each of the Society and the Auxiliary is appointed to consider this request and the needs for such a building.

Early Spring Construction begins on the new hospital building in Mountain Lake.

Summer The heating system of the Hospital is changed and rebuilt. All hospital rooms are painted, the X-Ray room is enlarged, and a steam heating plant installed. Total cost $17,000.00.

September Sisters Elfrieda and Elizabeth go to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to prepare for foreign mission service.

Sept. 17 The Rev. H. D. Penner resigns from his work as superintendent of the institutions.

1921

Jan. 27 Dr. J. T. Axtell offers to sell his hospital to the Society. The Directors refuse the purchase.

March 11 The death of J. J. Krehbiel.

May 10 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

June 5 Dedication of the new Hospital Building in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Dedicatory sermon by the Rev. Abr. Ratzlaff, Text Ps. 100:v. 2.

Sept. 7 Frieda N. Sprunger and Elizabeth Goertz sail for China.

Sept. 19 Our Sisters are recalled from the Public Health Service in Newton. Pressure of work in the hospitals at Newton and in Mountain Lake is the reason for this move.

1922

May 16 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The By-Laws are revised to include the enlarged service in Mountain Lake and the future Home for Aged.

September Sister Lena Mae begins her work in the institution as Principal of the Training School.

Oct. 11 Sister Margaret Friesen of Mountain Lake, Minnesota joins the Sisterhood.

1923

May 4 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The Women's Auxiliary reports $12,200.44 on hand for the Home for the Aged. The Society decides to solicit funds, and to begin with the construction of the Home within a period of two years if possible.

May 15 Mrs. B. Warkentin, John G. Regier and Sister Frieda go to Illinois to visit Homes for Aged. Twenty Homes are visited, and they attend the Dedication of the Old People's Home in Meadows, Ill.

June 2 Death of Dr. A. E. Smolt.

June 16 Death of the Rev. Gustav Harder.

Sept. 1 Sister Theodosia goes to St. Louis to take special work in X-Ray and Laboratory technique for six months.

Dec. 14 Special Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. Building plans are submitted for the Home for Aged, and rules and regulations for the future institution are considered.

1924

May 13 Annual Meeting of the Bethel D. H. & H. Society. Good progress is reported in the work in Newton and Mountain Lake. The building fund for the Home for Aged has grown to $28,000.00.

June 11 Death of Sister Anna Claassen.

Sept. 28 Ordination of the Sisters Lena Androes, Rachel Kleinsasser, Zipora Meshberger, Lydia Elsie Hubin, and Helena Entz.

Oct. 6 The Directors consider the purchase of the north half of the block of land located directly south of the Hospital block. They ask the City Commissioners about the possibility of closing the street located between the two parcels of ground. The petition was granted later on.

November A house and lot are purchased in Mountain Lake as a site for a Sisters' Home.

Dec. 12 Special Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. It is decided that the one-half block of land on which the option has been procured by the Directors be purchased as a building site for the Home for Aged in Newton.

1925

Jan. 8 Rules and regulations are adopted for the Home for Aged.

March 5 The first spade of earth is turned for the Home for Aged by Mrs. B. Warkentin. The Sommers Construction Company begins excavation work.

April 16 Bids are opened for the Home for Aged.

April 21 The building contract is signed for the Home for Aged.

May 12 Annual Meeting of the Bethel D. H. & H. Society.

Sept. 1 Sister Marie Gallison representing the Deaconess Motherhouse at Kaiserswerth, Germany arrives to visit the institution.

Sept. 13 Laying of the cornerstone for the Home for Aged.

Sept. 27 Ordination of Sister Lena Mae Smith.

Oct. 11 Sister Margaret Friesen celebrates her 25th anniversary since she entered deaconess work in the I. A. Sprunger Institution in Cleveland, Ohio.

October Excavation for the Sisters' Home in Mountain Lake is started.

1926

May 9 The dedication of the Home for Aged. Eighteen persons move into the Home during the first week.

May 18 Annual Meeting of the Bethel D. H. & H. Society. The Hospital Buildings both in Newton and Mountain Lake are reported as crowded beyond capacity. It is decided that a small section of a much needed training school building shall be erected in Newton.

June 22 Sister Catherine returns from an extended vacation in the Eastern States. She becomes very ill during the first night at home.

July 21 Sister Catherine calls for a meeting of the executive board and urgently requests that the entire first floor section of the proposed training school building be erected at once.

Aug. 4 Sister Catherine undergoes a major operation.
The foundation is poured for the training school building.

Aug. 19 Sister Catherine dies suddenly at 1:20 A. M. Her death is caused by an embolism.

Oct. 1 The X-Ray machine breaks down. It cannot be repaired.

Oct. 3 Lightning strikes the Home for Aged at 6 A. M. There is some damage to the roof.

Nov. 3 A new X-Ray machine is installed. Cost $2318.00.

Dec. 8 Sister Clara Schmidt leaves for Mountain Lake, Minnesota. She is to act as Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital and as Superintendent of nurses.

1927

May 9 Dedication of the Class Room in the Training School Building. Memorial tablet to Sister Catherine Voth, a gift of the Bethel Alumnae is unveiled. Cost of building $25,000.00.

May 10 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

May 29 Ordination of the Sisters Theodosia Harms, Katie Dick, Linda Penner, Aganetha Wiens, and Elizabeth Eitzen.

June 5 Dedication of the Sisters' Home at Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Cost of building $20,000.00.

Aug. 9 Sister Frieda's 25th anniversary as Deaconess.

Summer An electric elevator is installed in the Hospital at Mountain Lake.

Sept. 4 Ordination of Sister Aganeta Boese in her home church at Avon, South Dakota.

Sept. 29 First Gift Day at the Home for Aged. Cash Donations received $992.00, and $1000.00 Annuity.

Dec. 13 The elevator at the Bethel Hospital in Newton gives out. Extensive and expensive repairs are made and it is hoped that all is well.

1928

February Sister Clara falls on the ice and fractures a vertebra.

April 21 Death of J. H. Richert.

July 1 Sister Clara leaves Mountain Lake. She enters a sanatorium in El Paso, Texas as a patient.

Sept. 1 Sister Ida Epp leaves Mountain Lake after a service there of thirteen years. She is physically not able to continue her work.
Sister Agnes Lohrentz begins special training for laboratory and X-ray work in Wichita.

Sept. 13 Gift Day at the Home for Aged. Cash Gifts $1830.00.

1929

Feb. 6 Death of Dr. L. T. Smith.

May 1 The Rev. J. M. Suderman begins his work as superintendent of the institutions.

May 14 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The indebtedness on the training school building is reported paid. The indebtedness on the Home for Aged has been reduced from $45,000.00 to $28,500.00. The Board of Directors recommend that the Mountain Lake institution be turned over to a local society to be organized in Minnesota. There are no sisters available to direct the work in Mountain Lake.

May 29 The first Baby Clinic for the babies born in the Bethel Hospital.

Sept. 12 Gift Day at Home for Aged. Cash gifts amount to $2406.00.

Oct. 29 The elevator in the Hospital springs another leak. Another hydraulic type elevator cannot be installed. In order to put an electric elevator into the building it is found that an entire section of the Hospital must be reconstructed so that the machinery can be placed and new stairways can be provided.

December Construction work for the new elevator and for the stairway is started.

1930

Feb. 20 A Hospital Society is organized at Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Votes and memberships in the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society issued for gifts to the Minnesota institutions are transferred to the new Society if the donor so desires.

Feb. 20 The Directors decide to build a much needed ambulance entrance, a record room and a new nursery for the care of infants in connection with the building operations made necessary to provide new stairways and the elevator at the Hospital.

April 10 It is decided that a third floor be added to the building under construction.

May 13 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. The institutions in Mountain Lake, which have been the property of the Motherhouse are turned over to the newly organized Society in Minnesota.

Sept. 4 Gift Day at the Home for Aged. Cash Gifts amount to $1683.00. The Home receives also a gift of $2,500 from the J. J. and Anna L. Krehbiel estate to be used as an endowment for the Home.

Oct. 5 Dedication of the Annex to the Hospital consisting of the ambulance hall and entrance, record room, office rooms, a spacious nursery and utility room, a separate section for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Work, doctors' room, new stairways and an electric elevator.

Oct. 24 Sister Ida celebrates her 25th anniversary as a deaconess.

1931

May 12 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. Indebtedness of the Home for Aged reduced to $28,000.00. Cost of addition to the Hospital and the new elevator is $34,000.00. An indebtedness remains of $27,000.00.

Sept. 11 Gift Day at the Home for Aged. Cash Gifts received amount to $1007.00.

1932

Feb 9 Fire of unknown origin destroys a portion of the roof of the Deaconess Home. There are 14 rooms damaged by fire and water. Loss covered by insurance.

May 10 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

June 13 Death of John G. Regier.

July 1 Rev. J. M. Suderman discontinues his work as hospital superintendent.

July 5 Death of Mrs. B. Warkentin.

Sept. 1 Miss Mollie Becker begins her work as dietician of the institution.

Sept. 13 Death of Dr. Max Miller.

Sept. 16 Gift Day at the Home for Aged. Cash gifts received amount to $529.00.

Sept. 23 The home of the late Mrs. B. Warkentin located at 211 East First St. Newton, is presented to the Board of Directors. It becomes the property of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society.

Oct. 22 Death of Sister Clara Schmidt.

Nov. 1 Dedicatory service at the Wilhelmina E. Warkentin Memorial Home.

1933

March 17 The Directors ask three members of the Medical Staff to form a Clinic in connection with the Hospital. A Constitution is drafted for the proposed Bethel Deaconess Hospital Clinic.

March 22 Sister Hillegonda falls and sustains a fracture of her hip and wrist.

May 9 Annual Meeting of the Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital Society. There are 300 Members and a total of 1812 Votes.

June 11 The 25th Anniversary of tht Bethel Deaconess Home and Hospital. Ordination of the Sisters Tena Hooge, Marie Schmidt, Anna Lange, Agnes Lohrentz, Anna Marie Goertz, K. Delores Friesen, Helene Marie Bartsch, Margaret Jane Unruh.

Thou, O God, hast proved us: Thou hast tried us as silver is tried.
Ps. 66:10.